

Newton, and Spencer (p. 311) are not eugenically satisfactory; for none of them left descendants.

As regards details, I find Prof. Smith's criticisms (p. 295) of Mr. W. (not M.) McDougall's proposal to increase salaries in the professional classes with the increase of the family unintelligible. Why "would the only definite result be the filling of the civil service with men passed their youth"? If "passed" be taken as a misprint* for "past," I suppose he means that old men would be cheaper to employ. But is he unaware of the organisation of the British Civil Service, and of the highly selective examination that conducts to it? The account of Mendelism on p. 304 is also very perfunctory.

On the whole, then, the discrepancy between Prof. Smith and the eugenists is only on the surface, and his book may even do good service if it helps to check the foolish notion that the case for eugenics rests on the antithesis of "nature" and "nurture," and implies that the latter can safely be neglected. Eugenists should emphasise that they favour all means of making the best of the material provided, and perceive that the best natures are useless unless society can contrive to educate them properly. After all, all the achievements of the human race have to be transmitted in every generation by education, and it is a curious lacuna of Prof. Smith's book that he does not consider the "social defeats" which may be inflicted by the woeful failure of educational systems.

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Moll, DR. ALBERT. *The Sexual Life of the Child.* Translated by Dr. Eden Paul. Geo. Allen & Co.; 15s. net.

A publisher's note states that "the sale of this book is limited to members of the medical, scholastic, legal, and clerical professions," but we strongly recommend all parents and eugenists who have not the good fortune to belong to one of the favoured professions to overcome this difficulty by borrowing it as soon as may be from someone who does. The possibility of the occurrence of sexual phenomena in early childhood has been too long ignored, in this country at least, even by medical men whose duty it should have been to instruct parents and teachers. One result of this ignorance is at last being brought forcibly home to us, for we can no longer shut our eyes to the prevalence of certain evils in our schools. And these evils no increase of discipline, no preaching, no punishments will eradicate. As has been recently said, "If we don't know about them (*i.e.*, sexual manifestations)—if they are sprung upon us as a sudden and unexplained portent (having broken away for a moment from that conspiracy of silence in which they are usually shut down)—then we are almost sure to treat such phenomena cruelly, vindictively, ignorantly, and, for any remedial effect, quite uselessly." That is why Dr. Moll's book should be in the hands of all who are concerned in the up-bringing of children. In it will be found the requisite knowledge set forth clearly and readably—here the translator deserves a special word of praise—but also scientifically. There is nothing of the "popular manual" about this book.

Dr. Moll belongs to the school of Von Krafft-Ebing, of whose writings (and the few lectures it was our privilege to hear) we are constantly reminded by a similar detached, matter-of-fact manner of presenting, and considering, evidence of a pathological nature. With the psycho-analytical school of which Freud is the leader, he is not altogether in sympathy, and many will agree with his criticism that "Freud's generalisation is too comprehensive; inasmuch as he symbolises all things

* Presumably "hypocrisy" on p. 140 for "hypocrisy," and "plain" for "plane" on p. 300 are also such, unless they are ultra-American spellings or jokes.

in accordance with his own peculiar preconceptions, the concept sexual receives in his hands an undue extension."

A strong vein of commonsense, of the practical commonsense of the man who has to deal with the problems under consideration as they affect individual lives, and not only as they appear to the laboratory worker or the student, leads Dr. Moll to reconsider the teachings of tradition, and to deal with some of its dicta in a refreshingly sane and critical spirit. We would especially refer the reader to the chapter on "The Importance of the Sexual Life of the Child," in which the claims of both morality and science to dogmatic teaching in sexual matters are carefully considered from a somewhat unusual, but eminently reasonable, standpoint.

Eugenists, however, will probably turn first to the last, and longest, chapter, that on "Sexual Education," and here they will find a strong case made out, as one would expect, for "sexual enlightenment," as Dr. Moll terms that branch of sexual education which deals with the teaching of the reproductive processes. But Dr. Moll does not advise this enlightenment at all costs in every case: "If the right person is not to be found, the idea of the sexual enlightenment must be abandoned. However unsympathetic and even dangerous the manner in which as a rule children mutually enlighten one another about sexual matters, even more serious dangers may attach to the enlightenment of a child by an adult unsuited for this difficult task." And again: "Above all in this matter a mechanical routine must be avoided." His choice rests on the mother as most suited for this task by reason of possessing, as a rule, the child's confidence, which he considers the essential qualification, and also because she will most likely have that knowledge of the child's character which will enable her to choose the time and method most suitable for each individual case.

There is a most interesting chapter on the legal aspect of the sexual life of childhood, which contains a not unnecessary warning as to the credibility of children witnesses in blackmailing cases. The other chapters deal with the historical aspects of the subjects, the physiology of sex, its pathology, and the etiology and diagnosis of pathological conditions.

A subject index and index of names complete a most interesting and valuable contribution to a subject on which there has been as yet but little authoritative writing.

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PERIODICAL LITERATURE

ARCHIV FÜR RASSEN-UND GESELLSCHAFTS-BIOLOGIE IX., 1, January—February, 1912.

C. Fruwirth: *Spontane vegetative Bastardspaltung*.

Eugen Fischer: *Zur Frage der Kreuzungen beim Menschen*. In part a preliminary notice of anthropological investigations of the author among the "Bastardvolk" of German South-West Africa, in part a criticism of Fehlinger's assumption that the crossing of races is the main factor of racial decay (*Archiv* no. 4, 1911 *supra*).

Elias Auerbach: *Das wahre Geschlechtsverhältniss des Menschen*. On the basis of a statistical investigation into infantile mortality (including the still-born) and taking account, so far as was possible, of miscarriages, Auerbach arrives at the conclusion that the true proportion of male to female fertilised ova is about 125:100; and that the lowest limit is 116:100.